

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 3 of 1877.

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 20th January 1877.

THE *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 27th December last, remarks, in reference to Sir Richard Temple's proposed rent law, that, if passed, it will not succeed in removing the seeds of discord sown in the minds of both landlords and tenants by Act X of 1859; and will be productive of more injurious consequences than Act VIII of 1869. Suits for enhancement of rent will be made increasingly intricate, while those for its realization will need to be instituted over again. Thus will be brought into existence a new sort of litigation, which will subject the landlords to unnecessary trouble. Suits will be frequently decreed, and the property of a ryot sold by auction, even before a notice has been issued. There is no provision for appeals in the Bill; and this will prove greatly disadvantageous to the tenant. Nor will landlords be any gainers by the omission. And as this measure has no beneficial, but rather an injurious tendency, it cannot be advisable to pass it, at least in its present form.

BISHWA SUHRID,
December 27th, 1876.
Circulation about 450.

2. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 7th January, makes the following observations, on the address made by the Commissioner of Dacca, on the day of the proclamation of the Imperial Title:—The sentiments of liberality, which abound in it, are not new. They have been addressed to us in more elegant and forcible language on many previous occasions; though it is a matter of deep regret to us that, in practice, we have profited little from them. Even at the present moment, injury is done to the natives under plea of doing them good; and instead of being sympathised with, they are regarded with indifference. In spite of the fact that there are large numbers of competent natives available in the country, ignorant and incompetent Europeans are appointed to the superior offices in the public service. In short, in the distribution of public favors, as well as in the administration of justice, a distinction of caste, color, and creed finds place. We, of course, admit that, in the pure heart of Her Majesty, there is no such invidious feeling; and that the self-seeking policy of Government officers is alone responsible for the evils which occasionally take place. But Her Majesty's Government is not on that account less open to blame. We, therefore, sincerely hope that, since Her Majesty's relation with India has now become closer, she will use means to give practical indication of the sincere interest she takes in the welfare of natives, so that there may no longer be any distinction made between them and Europeans; and that the disadvantages, such as the exclusion from superior appointments in the public service, the expensiveness of education and justice, and the high-handed oppression of the Europeans, under which they labor at present, may be removed; otherwise all the rejoicings, consequent on her assumption of the Imperial Title, will have been equally hollow and meaningless.

DACCA PRAKASH,
January 7th, 1877.
Circulation about 400.

DACCA PRAKASH,
January 7th, 1877.
Circulation about 400.

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 11th, 1877.
Circulation about 650.

3. The same paper regrets to notice that a feeling of dissatisfaction prevails in Dacca, arising from the claims of many deserving persons having been ignored in the distribution of certificates of honor, on the occasion of the Durbar on the 1st January.

4. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 11th January, writes the following in its opening editorial paragraph:—An intelligent person would really find it difficult to comprehend the object and significance of the empty titles of distinction which Government bestows with a lavish hand. They have become worthless in the estimation of the people within the last two or three years; and lack the meaning and usefulness which is possessed even in children's toys. The recipient of the honor may feel gratified and delighted, but does not find himself entitled to any new position in society; and what attends with shame the possession of such titles, is the fact that even the common people have made a classification of them, and attached a certain value to each; their belief is that a title is procurable at a given price. Such lavish distribution of honors has not been known under any previous Government; and the practice has grown up only within the last two or three years. Under the Mahomedan Nawabs, honors were conferred, accompanied with high appointments and grants of *jaygir*. After the suppression of the mutiny in 1858, Government made indeed a few grants of land, from the forfeited property of the insurgents, to reward the loyal; but though many titles have been conferred during the hundred years which have elapsed since the English gained possession of the country; not one *jaygir* or high appointment has been given away. No one, unless he were grossly stupid, would be imposed upon by these empty titles; and we wait to see when Government will perceive its error. The way, moreover, in which these are distributed, and the injudicious selection of persons on whom to confer them have been extremely unsatisfactory. In short, the whole thing is demoralizing.

BHARAT MIHIR.

5. The same paper remarks, in reference to the Imperial Assemblage, that if the object was merely to impress, on the minds of the people, the fact of the paramount power of British rule in India, Government must be congratulated on the complete success that has attended it. But as this fact was patent to the minds of all, and has been openly acknowledged since the suppression of the mutiny of 1858, we cannot tell what might be the motive for making this grand exhibition. The truth of Mr. Gladstone's remarks, however, that the assumption of the Imperial Title would affect the dignity of the independent Native Princes of India, has been signally realized.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 11th, 1877.
Circulation about 2,217.

6. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 11th January, makes the following remarks, in an editorial headed "Sir Richard Temple and Mr. Eden":—Bengal would have greatly benefited from a continuance of Sir Richard Temple's rule; for he had inaugurated a number of beneficial measures. It is, however, gratifying to know that Mr. Eden succeeds him in the Lieutenant-Governorship, a really competent man, who would long since have obtained this appointment, if the people had had any voice in the matter. As it is, we hope that, in Mr. Eden, Bengal will have no cause to regret the loss of Sir Richard Temple's services; though we are not free from apprehension on some grounds. These are, first, the influence of his favourites, of whom there are many in Bengal, who are exceedingly selfish in their aims; and secondly, the vacillating policy of Government. The first ground of uneasiness may be easily dismissed from our minds by the consideration that such an intelligent and able man as Mr. Eden will not fail to observe that in Bengal no Governor can maintain his prestige if he follows the policy of favoring a

party or a class. Having before him the enlightened public opinion of the province, and the example of Sir Richard Temple, who very nearly wrecked his reputation by pursuing popular favor, we are confident that Mr. Eden will not turn aside from the path of duty. The second ground of apprehension rests on the apparent alternation of the feelings of Government between an extremely rigorous and an extremely mild form. Thus the administration of Sir George Campbell, which harassed us beyond all measure, was succeeded by the mild sway of Sir Richard Temple, whose whole time was taken up with redressing the grievances, which originated during the rule of his predecessor. It is the fear that the Hon'ble Mr. Eden's administration will prove reactionary that creates uneasiness in our minds.

7. The same paper expresses dissatisfaction with the arrangements made on the occasion of the Durbar at Calcutta. A large number of respectable gentlemen and ladies had to sit in an uncovered place, exposed to the full fury of the midday sun. Great disorder prevailed in respect of the seats; and certificates of honor were given away without any proper care having been taken in the selection of the recipients.

8. The same paper notices a great want of discrimination in the late distribution of honors by Government. Injustice has been done to Maháráni Swarnamayí, and her minister Ray Rájib Lochan Roy Bahadur, and to Baboo Annadá Prasád, of Cossim Bazar, who are disappointed to find their claims to distinction ignored by the rulers, while persons have been honored who are utterly unknown to the public and have no special claims. It would have been better, and far more gratifying, if, instead of an empty title, which after all is not new to him, the Rajah of Susanga had got back the Garo Hills, of which he is the rightful owner.

9. The *Samáj Darpan*, of the 12th January, dwells, in a lengthy editorial, on the imperfect character of the present system of education, both English and Vernacular. Poetry, especially of an objectionable kind, on subjects which address the emotions rather than the intellect, and consequently make the pupil more disposed to speculation than action, receives far more attention than is due. Much injury is done to the minds of native youth by the poetry of M. Madhusúdan Dutta, and the love tales of Babu Bankim Chunder Chatterjee. The former is read in schools, and the latter occupies a place in subsequent studies. In English, also, an indiscriminate study of the plays of Shakspeare does more harm than good. It is highly desirable that the Educational authorities should so direct the studies of the native youth, as to stimulate them to activity, and lead them to think for themselves.

10. The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 13th January, dwells on the oppressions committed on native emigrants by tea-planters, and on their tenantry by indigo-planters. It is, indeed, humiliating to think that such a state of things is allowed to continue under a Government, which has abolished the practice of slavery, and has enacted laws for the humane treatment of animals. Yet the fact is well known, and the evil is tolerated simply on the ground that the planters are Europeans. They commit fearful oppressions, much of which is never brought to light, only because officers of Government befriend them. We have, therefore, repeatedly urged on the authorities the need of appointing a number of secret spies to report on these matters and give them publicity. One thing, which some time since occupied Sir Richard Temple's thoughts, is especially worthy the attention of Government, namely, the decrease in the number of emigrants proceeding to the labor districts; and the fact that, while the mahajuns and the merchants, who are the great employers of labor in this country, are never in

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 11th, 1877.
Circulation about 2,217.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

SAMAJ DARPAH,
January 12th, 1877.
Circulation about 460.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.
January 13th, 1877.
Circulation about 200.

want of laborers, who voluntarily come to them for employment, nothing short of a system of recruiting is needed to supply the labor on the plantations. Laborers are required in both cases to live at a distance from their homes; and the difference that appears in the choice of the laborers can only be explained by the diversity of treatment they receive at the hands of the mahajuns and of the planters. Among the latter, however, there are noble exceptions; and an enquiry into the manner in which laborers are treated on their plantations, and on those belonging to others, might prove interesting and useful.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
January 13th, 1877.
Circulation about 300.

11. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 13th January, urges on Government the advisability and propriety of restoring the Garo Hills to the Maharajah of Susanga, of which he has been most unjustly deprived. This act of justice done to the injured Maharajah will prove a source of general satisfaction.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

12. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the extortions practised, and the rudeness shown to passengers by the ferrymen on the river at Dacca, and the indifference of the local officers to their complaints.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

13. The same paper gives expression to the feeling of disappointment which has come over the minds of natives, from there being nothing in Lord Lytton's speech at the Durbar, or throughout the whole affair connected with the Imperial Assemblage, which might be regarded as a new and substantial privilege conferred on them. Empty titles of distinction only have been lavishly bestowed, and some equally unmeaning instructions given.

SADHARANI,
January 14th, 1877.
Circulation about 516.

14. The *Sádháraní*, of the 14th January, dwells on the hollowness of the Viceroy's address, on the occasion of the Durbar, and the disappointment which has been caused to the natives thereby. One thing, however, has been abundantly clear from the late occurrences—that Government has no sympathy with the feelings of the natives, and is so indifferent to their condition, that it rejoices when they weep. A Government of love is not known to our rulers, and the foundations of the British power in India rest on the point of the sword.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
January 15th, 1877.

15. The *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 15th January, remarks that, in reference to the distribution of the titles of distinction, injustice has been done to Rajah Kamal Krishna Bahadoor, of Sobha Bazar, to Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitra, and to Maháráni Swarnamayí. Rajah Kamal Krishna is noted for his almost unbounded charity and public spirit, and it is a scanty recognition of his merits to confer on him the title of Rajah after so many years.

SAMBAD BHASKAR.

16. The same paper notices, with disappointment, that no privileges, not even the much-talked-of appointment to some of the superior administrative posts under Government, have been conferred on the natives; and observes that it would have been better if no hopes had been entertained of any announcement in this respect on the occasion of the Durbar.

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 15th 1877.
Circulation about 700.

17. Now that the Durbar is over, observes the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 15th January, what of the appointment of natives to high judicial and executive offices under Government, which was so much talked of? Has it vanished with the frequent booming of the guns, or is it swept away by the torrent of the Viceroy's eloquence? The Fuller Minute led us to believe that Lord Lytton was an independent thinker, and acted as he thought best; but we were mistaken. His action in the Fuller case proceeded from an impulse of the moment; the whole arrangement in connection with

the Assemblage was made at the dictation of another. He has placed his trust in blind guides, and so, like Lord Northbrook in the Baroda affair, has committed a blunder. His advisers have not probably been able to bear the thought of Europeans being placed under native officers, as they must be, if the latter were appointed to the District Magistracy. And while Lord Lytton has thus disappointed the hopes of natives, he has earned unpopularity for himself, and given proof of his lacking originality of views in statesmanship. He is a second-rate poet; in statesmanship his place is lower still.

18. The same paper remarks that it is for the Hon'ble A. Eden to do justice to the educated natives of Bengal by appointing them to superior offices in the public service, according to their qualifications. They can discharge the duties of any office satisfactorily, if only a fair trial be given them.

19. The same paper remarks that the lavish and indiscriminate distribution of titles of distinction has been productive of two great evils—one is, that many have been honored who have no claims to distinction, and thus titles have lost their former significance and importance; and the other is, that it is demoralizing to the recipients, who are in this way made subservient to a Government whose acts, if objectionable, they might otherwise have opposed.

20. The same paper is thankful to Lord Lytton for the honor done to the native press by the invitation offered to the editors to attend the Delhi Durbar, and the encouragement given them by his reply to their address. The editor, therefore, prays that his favor may be enhanced by supplying them with official papers.

21. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 10th January, writing of Sir Richard Temple's proposed rent law, observes that there is nothing new in it. Section 6 is virtually the same as section 6 of Act VIII of 1869. It is to be regretted that neither in that Act, nor in the present Bill, is the definition of the words "occupancy right" to be found. The Bill is not, moreover, clear in its wording. It is not just to provide only for an enhancement, and not equally for an abatement, of rents.

22. With reference to the publication of the first number of the *Government Gazette* in Hindi, the editor of the *Behár Bandhu* says that the fate of the province has been a blessed one, and his only prayer is that the *Gazette* may long continue to exist. The style in which it is written is all that is desirable, but there are several clerical errors. Ráya Sohanlál has fulfilled every expectation, but he is asked to pay more attention to the examination and correction of the *proof-sheets*. A fuller review is promised hereafter.

23. The editor of the *Qásid* thanks God that, after a long lapse of time, a *Gazette* for *Soubah Behár* has appeared, and that, although the majority of the inhabitants of the province are not likely to profit by it, in consequence of its being printed in the Nágri character, yet there is a general feeling of thankfulness. It is much to be regretted that there are many clerical errors, which, it is hoped, will in time gradually disappear. The language of the *Gazette* is simple, but the use of newly-coined words renders the sense of some passages indefinite. The translator has deviated sometimes from the well-known forms of writing the *Déb-nágri* character, making compound and poly-syllabic words to appear separate; it would be well for those who are conversant with that language to settle amongst themselves whether such alteration is consistent.

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 15th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

SOMA PRAKASH.

SOMA PRAKASH.

SAMÁCHÁR
CHANDRIKÁ,
January 10th, 1877.
Circulation about 625.

BEHAR BANDHU,
January 10th, 1877.

QÁSID, OR "THE
MESSENGER,"
January 18th, 1877.

QASID OR "THE
MESSENGER,"
January 18th 1877.

QASID OR "THE
MESSENGER."

24. This paper states that cholera has appeared in a very virulent form in *Barrisál*. Hundreds of people are dying daily. It is a matter of much surprise that Government has sent no doctors there, for they are much wanted.

25. The same paper, in noticing the appointment of Sir Richard Temple to superintend the famine operations in Bombay and Madras, asks "what His Honor had done in *Soubah Behár*, that he might be expected to do there."

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 20th January 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending
the 20th January 1877.*

| No. | Name. | Place of publication. | Monthly, weekly, or otherwise. | Date. |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | "Bhárat Shramjibí" | Baráhanagar ... | Monthly | Kartik, 1283. B.S. |
| 2 | "Bishwa Suhrid" | Mymensingh ... | Weekly | 27th December 1876. |
| 3 | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" | Kákiniá, Rungpore | Ditto | 28th ditto. |
| 4 | "Dacca Prakásh" | Dacca ... | Ditto | 7th & 14th January 1877. |
| 5 | "Hindu Ranjiká" | Bauleah, Rajshahye | Ditto | 10th January 1877. |
| 6 | "Amrita Bazar Patriká" | Calcutta ... | Ditto | 11th ditto. |
| 7 | "Bhárat Mihir" | Mymensingh ... | Ditto | 11th ditto. |
| 8 | "Education Gazette" | Hooghly ... | Ditto | 12th ditto. |
| 9 | "Meorshedabad Patriká" | Berhampore ... | Ditto | 12th ditto. |
| 10 | "Pratikár" | Ditto ... | Ditto | 12th ditto. |
| 11 | "Samáj Darpan" | Calcutta ... | Ditto | 12th ditto. |
| 12 | "Grámbártá Prakáshiká" | Comercolly ... | Ditto | 13th ditto. |
| 13 | "Hindu Hitoishiní" | Dacca ... | Ditto | 13th ditto. |
| 14 | "Howrah Hitakári" | Bethar, Howrah | Ditto | 14th ditto. |
| 15 | "Sádháraní" | Chinsurah ... | Ditto | 14th ditto. |
| 16 | "Soma Prakásh" | Bhowanipore ... | Ditto | 15th ditto. |
| 17 | "Sambád Bháskar" | Calcutta ... | Ditto | 15th ditto. |
| 18 | "Samáchár Chandriká" | Ditto ... | Daily | 10th, 11th, 13th to 16th, & 18th January 1877. |
| 19 | "Sambád Prabhákar" | Ditto ... | Ditto | 6th to 18th January 1877. |
| 20 | "Sambád Púrnachandrodaya" | Ditto ... | Ditto | 15th to 17th ditto. |
| 21 | "Behár Bandhu" (in <i>Hindi</i>) | Bankipore, Patna | Weekly | 10th January 1877. |
| 22 | "Jám-Jahán-numá" (in <i>Persian</i>) | Calcutta ... | Ditto | 12th ditto. |
| 23 | "Urdu Guide" (in <i>Urdu</i>) | Ditto ... | Ditto | 13th ditto. |
| 24 | "Qásid" (in <i>Urdu</i>) | Patna ... | Ditto | 15th ditto. |

Bengal Secretariat Press.